



THE

KNIGHT

SEPTEMBER--OCTOBER 2000



VOLUME 23, No. 1. Issue #122. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR

1917 PAPER NOTES OF THE GERMAN 27th ROAD BUILDING COMPANY

By Aleksandras Kubilas

From *Kolekcija*, # 7, 1999

Translated by Algirdas Kepalas

They are the currency of the occupying German army's 27th Roadbuilding Company (Strassenbaukompanie 27), colored cardboard coards, 55 x 67 mm., not resembling money. one of the great German numismatic specialists Dr. Arnold Keller has allotted these notes to Courland (Latvia). But around 1968 another distinguished money specialist A. Platbarzdis in his catalogue of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian coins and paper notes (published in Stockholm in English) gives these notes to Vilnius.

As A. Platbarzdis was living in emigration in Sweden he had the possibility to correct A. Keller's inaccuracy. In his first wide-ranging catalogue of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian currencies published in 1957 in Stockholm in German, A. Platbarzdis does not mention these notes. His 1968 catalogue estimates the notes respectively, each 10 marks. Comparatively, the Panevėžys money was listed at 12-15 marks each, and the Lithuanian 500 litų banknote 20 marks. The catalogue shows the picture of only one note, the 1 mark denomination.

The author of this article had the success to find with other collectors more of these notes. Some of them have a square stamp on the reverse which states "Muster! Ungültig! Zeitung der 10. Armee." This translates, "Specimen! Void! Newspaper of the 10th Army."

It is a pity, but I could not find more of these notes with other collectors. Lithuanian museums do not possess them either yet.

The money is not complicated: uniface, no date. Every nominal value is printed on thin cardboard of a different color. The text is very concise: "Gutschein über ___pf/mk. Strassenbaukomp. 27 (Translation: Voucher, for ___pfennigs/marks, Roadbuilding comp. 27)," followed by a signature below. The text is surrounded by a frame of

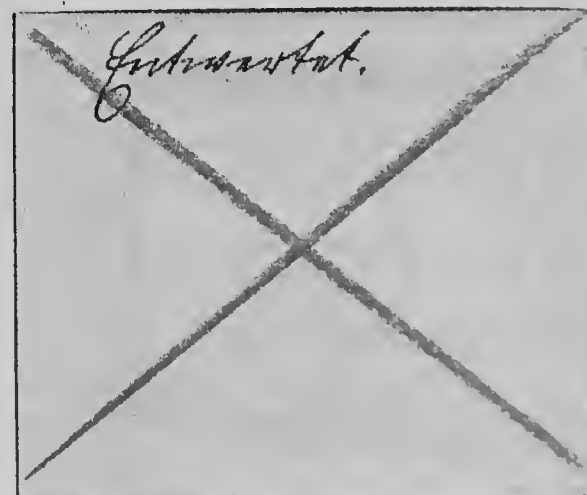
50 pf.
note
face.



1 mark
note
face



Hand-
written
"CAN-
CELLED"
on back
with red
"X."



(Continued on page 2...)

2. VILNIUS 1917 ROAD BUILDING NOTES (Continued from page 1...)



1.5 Mark face

three straight lines (the innermost line is much thicker than the two others). All values use corresponding Gothic German black script.

RIGHT: Specimen with purple stamped text, "Muster! Ungültig! Zeitung der 10 Armee."

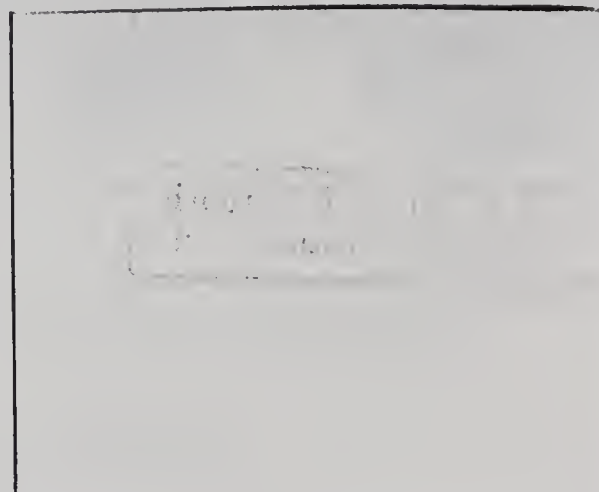


CHART BELOW: Regular Specimen Specimen
Line #; Value; Color; Note exists; with stamp; with writing; Rarity
rusva=brown; melsva=blue; žalsva=green; gelsva=yellow

Eil. nr.	Nominalas	Spalva	Pinigas	Pavyzdys su spaudu	Pavyzdys su užrašu	Retumas
1.	50 pf	rusva	+			R
2.	50 pf				+	RR
3.	1 M	melsva	+			R
4.	1 M	"			+	RR
5.	1 M	"		+		RRR
6.	1,5 M	žalsva		+		RRR
7.	3 M	gelsva	+			RRR

[Do any of our LNA members own any of these notes in their collection? If so, please send us a Xerox copy of both sides and any additional information. Notice that the 1.5 mark is known only as a specimen so far.]



10th Army Newspaper office in Vilnius at Pilies Gate.

2000 DATED PROOF SETS ISSUED

The Bank of Lithuania has issued 2000 dated collector proof sets of its currently issued coins for circulation. 5,000 sets were produced and are housed in an attractive amber illustrated glossy holder measuring approximately 150 x 150 mm. This is the first collector set issued since 1993 when the Litas committee issued a mint set of the 1991 dated coins.

The 2000 proof coins are housed in clear plastic embedded in a photograph of a piece of amber containing an insect. Lithuania's coins were designed by sculptor Antanas Žukauskas, with the contemporary Vytis emblem designed by Arvydas Každailis.

The new sets were issued on March 30, with an original local issue price of 30 litų (U.S. \$7.00). They were produced at the Lithuanian Mint in Vilnius. Each set contains these coins: 10, 20, 50 centų, and 1, 2, and 5 litai.



3.00 Mark face

TOKEN OF THE PHILADELPHIA LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE

With this being a major political election year here in the United States (November), we are reminded of the political contributions that Lithuanian-Americans have made through the years. It wasn't always that way, however. Author David Fainhauz writes in his book "*Lithuanians in Multi-Ethnic Chicago Until World War II*" (1977) pg. 85, "However, the idea of participation in American political life was alien to the majority of the immigrants, who were interested in working conditions rather than politics. The first Lithuanian immigrants did not speak English, nor did they know American law. Indeed, the whole political mechanism of the United States was beyond their comprehension. Many were reluctant to take out citizenship papers."

One community where Lithuanians became active in the political process was Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This prominent U.S. city contained approximately 15,000 Lithuanians just prior to World War I. Numerous Lithuanian organizations flourished here.

One of them was the Lithuanian-American Republican League. There were several Lithuanian Republican organizations that existed, such as the Ninth Street Lithuanian Republican Alliance, or the Lithuanian Republic Club of Philadelphia.

Tokens issued by these groups were described by LNA member Peter S. Horvitz in the February-March 1987, October-November 1987, and November-December 1990 issues of *The Knight*.

This issue we are featuring a token of the Lithuanian-American Republican League, described in 1990 by Horvitz. This editor recently purchased one of these at a Michigan coin show where it was held for him by an alert coin dealer.

Struck in aluminum, the token measures 24 mm. in diameter. The obverse bears the inscription, "LITHUANIAN AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE" with the border consisting of fine denticles. The reverse contains a decorative "5" in the center, meaning "5¢," with three stars each above and below the "5."

Collecting Lithuanian-American tokens is certainly a very specialized field. While we have covered tokens issued in Chicago and in Philadelphia here in *The Knight*, we bet there are other "maverick" tokens issued by Lithuanian organizations in selected cities across the United States. The token issued by the Lithuania Political



Club of Trenton, New Jersey and featured in our March-April 2000 issue is an example.

Do you have any Lithuanian tokens in your collection? If so, let us know and send us a photograph! We would like to share this information with our LNA members. Be sure to include metal content and size in mm.

Oh, lest you get the impression that we are being one-sided, yes, there were Lithuanian Democratic (party) organizations also that issued tokens. But there appear to be more Republican ones that we know about.

4. A FEW REMARKS ABOUT THE PORTUGALER OF VLADISLOVAS VASA STRUCK AT THE VILNIUS MINT

BY ZENONAS PAŽARAUSKAS

From: Koleckija, No. 5, 1998.

Translated by Algirdas Kepalas

In their publication about Lithuanian numismatics¹ the authors Stasys Sajauskas and Domininkas Kaubrys write that the Portugaler struck by Vladislovas Vasa in the Vilnius mint in 1639 is not a coin. Because of several reasons it is not possible to agree with this statement of the authors.

The authors of said publication do not support their assertions by any documents and try to back up their declarations by the doubts and inconsistent stand of two Polish numismatists M. Gumowski and E. Kopicki expressed in a few of their works.

Other reflections of the authors contradict established coinage traditions of the 16th-17th centuries of the Lithuanian-Polish state. Visual suggestions are not objective because they concern only one coin.² It is not possible to agree with the assertions of the authors that the legends of the 17th century coins necessarily had to include the word "coin" and had to indicate its value.

Gold ducats struck by Vladislovas Vasa in 1640 and 1641 as well as all talers of Vladislovas Vasa, except those of the towns of Torun and Danzig do not show the word "coin" and their value is not indicated.³

The history of numismatics knows many cases of coins which did not have any legends, but only monograms of value,⁴ different combinations of coats-of-arms or numerals, pictures of scientific instruments or animals, military or other technical accessories, etc. Historian and numismatist Joachim Lelevelis called coins without legends "mute coins."

There are known curiosities when from the metal of the same fineness and using the same stamps, coins as well as medals were struck. The chief criterion to distinguish a coin from a medal was the mass of the object.

The rarity of the Vladislovas Vasa coin with which we are concerned has the weight of a coin as well as its fineness. It should not be forgotten that gold was a very precious metal in the 16th-17th centuries. Medals were also struck from it. But gold medals of this period are very rare. An exception are those gold medals which together with silver medals were struck in larger amounts. This is not an unquestionable assertion. For clarity's sake I would like to emphasize that a medalist of this period's baroque



1639

Vladislovo Vazos portugalas



epoch Sebastian Dadler has struck 155 medals. In series together with other medals there are about 25 golden ones, but singly only three golden ones.⁵

Also it would be necessary to draw attention to certain historical circumstances. It is known that in 1639 Vladislovas Vasa had ordered S. Dadler to strike a medal with his likeness and that such a golden medal with an inscription HONOR VIRTUTIS PRAEMIUM (Honor is the reward of Virtue) was presented to the king.⁶ Polish classical numismatic literature attributes this medal to the epoch of the coronation.

Only later the striking date of the medal was unraveled. It would be illogical to think that Vladislovas Vasa could have ordered a similar medal from Jonušas Trylneris when the mint in Vilnius was closed. It is known that the king first time visited Vilnius right after the coronation in 1633.

Invited by the Bishop of Vilnius Abraomas Vaina the king visited Vilnius and the bishop's summer residence in Verkiai the second time in 1639. This event was completely described by poet Sarbievius who was in the king's company. It is impossible to reject the possibility that in the exactly then for a short time reopened Vilnius Mint, which mentions M. Gumowski, the Portugalers were struck as a present to the king. In the Lithuanian-Polish state the Portugalers were struck 1592-1677.⁷ The Portugaler of 10 ducats

value which were struck at the end of the 17th century century lost their function as coins and became medals.

The numismatist Marian Gumowski has written many works in which he examines Lithuanian coins. In his early study⁸ he writes that in the 1639 for a short time in the reopened Vilnius Mint was struck a small amount of golden Portugaler of 10 ducats value.

The coin showed the Gozdava coat-of-arms (of Mialojus Tryzna). Dies for them were engraved by Jonušas Trylneris. Thus there is no doubt that were are talking about a Lithuanian gold coin, a Portugaler of 10 ducats value struck at the Vilnius Mint. In other works of his⁹ the author (i.e. M. Gumowski) either does not write anything about the Portugaler of Vladislovas Vasa or his expressed thoughts about a medal contradict his own view in his book¹⁰ republished in the German language and supplemented where Vladislovas Vasa Portugaler of 1639 again is being called a coin! It was necessary to point out that in some of the works of M. Gumowski appear tendentious assertions, sometimes even distorting known historical facts, intended to debase Lithuanian numismatics. This was already brought up by Kaunas collectors Dr. Alexander M. Račkus (article "Features of Numismatics of Lithuania" in Naujoji Romuva) and Liudas Šulinskas¹¹) in the preface to the reissue of J. Tiškevičius' Catalogue in the Lithuanian language.

It similarly can be said of Edmund Kopicki, too. In his excellent publication of 12 volumes in volume 3 he writes that the Portugaler of Vladislovas Vasa is a coin of "medallic appearance."^{11b} But the newest publication of 4 volumes^{11c} the coin shows a new edition of description. Here it is clearly written that it is a Lithuanian Portugaler coin!

The authors of the newest catalogue of gold coins Robert Friedberg¹² and Chester L. Krause¹³ never had problems about the Portugaler of Vladislovas Vasa. The author of these lines did not succeed to discover numismatists whose works would doubt the here reviewed rarity struck at the Vilnius Mint.

1. Sajauskas S., Kaubrys D. Lietuvos Didžiosios Kunigaikštystės numizmatika. - Vilnius, 1993.
2. Hutten-Czapski E. Catalogue de la collection des médailles et monnaies polonaises. - Vol. 2.-N° 5838 (antras egz. saugomas Vienoje).
3. Kopicki E. Katalog podstawowych typów monet... 1632-1795. - Warszawa, 1977. - T.3.-N° 16, 19, 20, 21, 22.
4. Tyszkiewicz J. Skorowidz monet litewskich. - Warszawa, 1875.-N° 42, 43, 44.
5. Więcek A. Sebastian Dadler medalier gdański XVII wieku. - Gdańsk, 1962.
6. Raczyński E. Gabinet medalow polskich.-Wroclaw, 1838. - T.3. - N° 104.
7. Fengler H., Gierow G., Unger W. Transpress lexico numismatik. - Berlin, 1976. - S.219.
8. Gumowski M. Podręcznik numizmatyki polskiej. - Krakow, 1914. - S.99.
9. Gumowski M.
 - a) Mennica Wileńska w XVI i XVII wieku. - Warszawa, 1921.
 - b) Monety polskie. - Warszawa, 1924.
 - c) Wileńska szkoła medaljerska w XVI i XVII wieku. // Ateneum Wileńskie. - Wilno, 1929.
10. Gumowski M. Handbuch der polnischen Numismatik. - Graz, 1960. - S. 144.
11. Tiškevičius J. Senosios Lietuvos monetos. - Kaunas, 1975.
 - a) Lietuvos numizmatikos bruožai. // Naujoji Romuva.
 - b) Kopicki E. Katalog podstawowych typów monet... 1632-1795. - T. 3. - N° 25.
 - c) Kopicki E. Ilustrowany skorowidz pieniędzy polskich i z Polską związanych. - Warszawa, 1995.- N° 3577.
12. Friedberg R. Gold coins of the World. - New York, 1980. - P. 309.
13. Krause Ch., Mishler C. Standard catalog of World coins 1601-1700.-USA, 1977. -P. 903.

MAJOR AUCTION OF POLISH COLLECTION INCLUDES MEDIEVAL LITHUANIAN GOLD COINS

A vary major collection of Polish & related numismatic coins, including medieval Lithuanian gold, will be held on December 6 in conjunction with the New York International Numismatic Convention. The collection of Henry V. Karolkiewicz will be sold in its entirety in Triton IV in two sessions on December 6. The collection is estimated to sell for over \$2 million.

Amassed over 40 years, it is the most comprehensive collection of Polish & related coins ever to be auctioned. Coins from the collections of Sawicki, Golembeski, E. Hutten-Czapski, and others will be included in the sale.

Catalogs should be available November 1 for \$25. The auction is being conducted by the Classical Numismatic Group and Karl Stephens. Customers on their mailing lists will automatically receive a copy. To obtain a catalog, contact CNG at P.O. Box 479, Lancaster, PA 17608, or call (717) 390-9194. E-mail: cng@historicalcoins.com.

DMITRY MARKOV Coins & Medals



E-Mail:

MARKOV@BANET.NET

Specialist in Russian
coins, orders and medals

& Eastern Europe incld.
Lithuania.

(718) 332-4248
FAX (718) 332-8676

P.O. Box 950
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10272



Skydas: 1-2, istorin. XII-XIII a. riterių skydai; 3-4, išmušdinti Vytauto ir Jogailos monetose; 5, anglų bajorų XVI a. vartotų skydų forma; 6, skydas Vyčio ženkle Lietuvos Respublikos monetose (1925).

SKYDAS/Shield. A means of defense or cover, of wood, plaited of switches and covered by hides, later enforced with metal, and lastly entirely of metal, as protection against blows by cudgels, daggers or swords. In antiquity, a shield was an inseparable element of the armor of a soldier (not only of infantry, but of cavalry as well), until far-reaching shooting weapons had gained ascendancy. It has gone through a long succession of forms, but basically it was a triangle, sharp at the bottom, at the outside somewhat bent at lateral lines, held by leather thongs fastened on the inside, and carried on the (left) shoulder. Pictured on the shield were symbols of the military connections; and certainly during the golden age of knighthood, of rulers and barons, the personal coat-of-arms of special swordsmen or the aristocracy. In the middle ages, at knights tournaments, the contestants shields were publicly displayed prior to the trials, and were loudly described by the heralds recounting the coats-of-arms. For ages, the shield was limited in the plane for the symbol, the space in which the emblem was placed. Both these basic elements control the modern coat-of-arms. On the shields of rulers, the symbol represented the cover, the protection, the guardianship of all their liege lands and inhabitants.

When the shield lost its value in war or contentions, it became most appropriate in heraldry. Here it is trimmed and shaped in the styles of the ages, as it seemed more correct or beautiful. In old Lithuania, the shield was used at first without any symbol, later personalized representations were placed on them by rulers, leaders, and boyars. During the era of the Grand Duchy, shields of Lithuanians were likewise not uniform. However, their most popular shape always was, and passed into history as the modest, earnest form made famous on the coins of Vytautas the Great.

SKOTERIS/Skoter (German, skoter, schot, Schotter). An old, Teutonic Knight unit of silver weight, later developed into a change coin valued at 1/24 of a mark. For many years, taxes were reckoned by it, and the cost of luxuries in the channels of trade were described by it. However, it never existed as a coin. However, there were 1/2 and 1/4 of a skoter silver coins struck by the Master of the Teutonic Order, bearing the legend *MONETA DOMINORUM PRUSSIAE*, whose purchasing power from a half to a quarter of a skoter constantly diminished, until in the beginning of the 16th century it became almost completely worthless, and disappeared. In Prussia and its surrounding country, it was popularly known as "Halbskoter" and "quarter."

SKRUPULAS/Skrupul. (Latin scrupulus, Greek, gramma). The smallest unit of weight of ancient Rome, equal to 1/288 of an As weight. That constituted 1/24 of the then current ounce. In the metrical system scales, about 1.14 gr.

SKUDAS/Scudo (Italian, scudo). A monetary unit of Italy and the Vatican in the 17th to 19th centuries, in the end equalling 6 liras. Likewise, a silver coin of the taler class.

SMOLENSKO MONETOS/Smolensk Coins. Silver and copper coins, struck for the use of the city and region at the turn of the 14th-15th centuries. From 1404, by the dukes of Smolensk: Juris, Vosylius. After 1404, by Grand Duke Vytautas, conqueror of Smolensk, who joined it to the Grand Duchy. On the silver coin, Vytautas changed only the old symbol on the obverse, to the Columns of Gediminas, and on the copper (Pul) coins, struck the inscription and the distinctive symbol, but cut the coin itself down by half.

SMŪGIS/Strike. This pronoun is sometimes used by numismatists to designate the second side (reverse) of a coin, since during the time the coins are hammered or struck, that part of the dies normally was above the anvil, moving, and only by it was the strike given to the place of the face of the coin upon the planchet.

7.

SMULKI MONETA/Small Coin. A. A silver coin up to 20 gr. in weight and 32 mm. in diameter. B. Any coin composed of cheap metal.

Sn. The symbol for tin.

SOL. 1. An old French reckoning unit of money, valued at the start of the 1/20 part of a pound and equalling 12 denars. 20 sols made a livre. 2. A French silver coin of 12 denars, appearing for the first time in 1266, weighing about 4.22 gr. also known as Gros Tournois. Later it depreciated by degrees, and in the middle of the 13th century was struck in copper. During the revolution and after, it became the little valued sou. 3. A Peruvian monetary unit of 100 centavos, originally of silver, and later, a bronze coin.

SOLDAS/Soldo. An Italian schilling of the 13th to the 19th centuries, equalling 1/20 of a lira. It remained a stable coin of Italy and the Vatican for centuries, at first in silver, later turned into a billon coin, and from the 18th century, in copper.

Konstantino D. solidas.



SOLIDAS. A. A unit for reckoning money in the middle ages, consisting of 12 denars. B. A Bizantine gold coin, instituted during the reign of Constantine the Great (beginning of the 4th century), and continuing until the end of the empire. It circulated throughout all Europe (even reaching Lithuania at times) from the 6th to the 15th centuries. Its legal weight was 1/72 of a Roman pound (about 4.55 gr.) and its value was marked with Roman numerals LXXII, or OB. In some places it was called a Bizantine. The Greeks knew it as nosima. During the empire, gold medallion or medal solidas were also struck in the value of 1 1/2, 2, 3, 4, etc. units. C. In the archives of the middle ages we find information that the solidas was changed and developed into the schilling. Silver solidas coins were freely struck in an entire series of European countries, naming them in one location in Latin, "solidus," elsewhere in the local languages, "shilling, skilling, schilling, szelag, šilingas," including even to the end of the 18th century. In Austria, Great Britain and some African nations the shilling (the name and the coin) is utilized even today. During the 16th-17th centuries a silver coin called "solidus" (šilingus) was struck in the Grand Duchy by Stephan Batory, Sigismund Vaza, John Casimir, and later even issued a plethora of copper solidas (baratinkas).

SOROKAS. (Russian, sorok, 40). This noun was widely used in Lithuania in its relations with the Eastern Slavs, with the following meanings in Slavic: A. A group of 40 marten pelts, in the time of Lithuanian and east Slavic pelt monies. B. In the middle ages and somewhat later, a combined packet of 40 pelts, in trade as well as in assessments and taxes. For example, in 1522, according to Kraševski, the city of Vilnius paid into the Grand Duchy, "two sorokas of black marten." To the Lithuanian, the sorokas of pelts was known as "kailinis kartis," or main of pelts.

SRAIGTINIS PRESAS/Rotary Press. The first machine for striking coins and medals, which supplanted the primitive hammer in the mints processes. Such a press was invented in the 15th century by Italians. About 1550, M. Schwabe, a goldsmith of Augsburg, introduced it into Germany. Improved by the brothers Gelbis in Danzig, the rotary press began to find its way into the mints of other nations (Paris, London, Spain). However, moneyers for some reason were opposed to it in many places, with the result that it did not take over quickly. For instance, it did not take over the duties of the hammer in England until 1662. Nevertheless, its usefulness convinced the doubters, and the rotary press spread widely and from the end of the 17th century to the 3rd and 4th decades of the 19th century, it became the most important means of striking coins and other similar numismatic items in all civilized countries. Until the advent of the rotary press, coins were produced by many methods: they were hammered, founded, rolled. We call coins produced by it and by other machines subsequent to it, forged coins.

STAMBI MONETA/Large Coin. Any silver coin weighing 20 or more grams, of 32 mm. or more in diameter.

STANDARTINAI PINIGAI/Standard Money. These are coins whose basic unit content equals the weight of a certain fixed amount of precious metal, and that metal weight is equated to a universally recognized value. Coins freely struck from that amount of metal with an inscribed value equals to the amount of metal in their content, are considered standard money.

Continued next issue...



Left to Right: Al Radzius, Hank Gaidis, Robert J. Douchis, Frank Passic.

Lithuanian Numismatic Association officials met in Baltimore along the bay on August 10 to discuss the LNA and *The Knight*. The meeting occurred during the ANA convention in Philadelphia, in which *The Knight* editor Frank Passic also met with LNA members Vince Alones and Tony Tumonis. Bob and Hank recently returned from a summer trip to Lithuania, and discussed their numismatic successes there.

BAJORAI BOOK INCLUDES LITHUANIAN NUMISMATISTS

The Society of Lithuanian Nobles (Lietuvos Bajorų Karališkoji Sąjunga) has published its book, "Lietuvos Bajorų Palikuoniai." Hard cover, 286 pages. It contains the histories of more than 130 Lithuanian nobility/landowner families, personal biographies, and illustrations of their coats-of-arms. In Lithuanian, there is an English summary at the beginning. It also contains a summary of the Lithuanian nobility and their heraldic arms.

Included in the book are included short biographies of the following Lithuanian numismatists: LNA members K. Paul Zygas (Vrublevskis family, pp. 254-55); Frank Passic (Kulakauskas family, pp. 133-34); and former *Coin World* writer Richard Giedroyc (Giedraitis family, pg. 96).

An excellent book for those interested in heraldry and genealogy, the book is available for \$35 from the gift shop at the Balzkeas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60629, (773) 582-6500.



LIETUVOS BAJORŲ PALIKUONIAI

LIETUVOS BAJORŲ PALIKUONIAI
Dailininkas *Romas Dubonis*
Maketavo *Audronė Stanislavaitienė*

The Balzkeas Museum now has E-mail to several departments. Gift shop: giftshop@lithuanian-museum.org. Genealogy department: genealogy@lithuanian-museum.org. Library: library@lithuanian-museum.org. Museum newsletter: editor@lithuanian-museum.org.

SIDNEY OLYMPIC 50 LITŲ ISSUED

9.

The Bank of Lithuania issued a commemorative .925 silver proof 50 litų on July 10, 2000 to commemorate Lithuania's participation in the summer Olympics held in Sydney, Australia.

The coin weighs 28.28 grams, and has a diameter of 38.61 mm. 4,000 pieces were produced. Designed by sculptor Antanas Žukauskas, the obverse features the Vytis coat-of-arms, and the legend "LIETUVA 50 LITŲ" in the lower portion. The mintmark "LMK" appears below the Vytis emblem in the center of a vertical line design.

The reverse shows a discus thrower in the center. The legend reads "2000 SIDNĖJUS," with the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee emblem found about the right shoulder of the thrower. The initials of the sculptor "A.Ž." appear at the bottom.

The edge of the coin is inscribed, "NUGALI STRIPRŪS DVASIA IR KŪNU," meaning "Those Strong in Spirit and Body Shall Be Victorious."

The following historical information is taken from a brochure promoting the coin issued by the Bank of Lithuania:

Olympic Games are the most important contest of world sport, the origins of which go back to the times of ancient Greece. The modern Olympic Games have been held since 1896. The Games of the XXVII Olympiad will take place in Sydney from 15 September to 1 October 2000. The organisers of the Games are confident that the Olympics held at the turn of the century will be an extraordinary event. Sydney expects to welcome the 100 000th participant of the Olympic Games (up to now more than 93 000 athletes have taken part in the Olympics, among them 198 sportsmen from Lithuania). Lithuania, which is delegating about 50 of its best athletes to Sydney, is also cherishing great hopes.

From Paris to Sydney

Lithuanian athletes made their Olympic debut at the Games of the VIII Olympiad held in Paris in 1924. In 1928 representatives of Lithuania participated in the Winter Olympic Games in St Moritz and the Games of the IX Olympiad in Amsterdam. In the period between World War I and World War II Lithuania was represented in the Olympics by 25 athletes who competed in such sports as football, cycling, boxing, athletics, weightlifting and speed skating.

For many years the best Lithuanian athletes could only participate in the Olympic Games as members of the USSR team. From 1952 to 1988, a total of 84 Lithuanian athletes participated in nine Olympic Games: in Helsinki, Melbourne, Rome, Tokyo, Mexico, Munich, Montreal, Moscow and Seoul, winning, in all,



49 medals, of which 23 were gold, 19 silver and 15 bronze. In the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo and Calgary, two Lithuanian athletes, Algimantas Šalna and Vida Vencienė, won 2 gold and 1 bronze medals.

On 11 December 1988, the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee (LNOC) was re-established, and steps to regain its international recognition were undertaken. The re-establishment of an independent state in 1990 opened a new era for the sports in Lithuania. On 18 September 1991 the International Olympic Committee (IOC) meeting in Lausanne announced about the recognition of the LNOC, thus readmitting Lithuania to the international Olympic community, and invited Lithuanian athletes to take part in the 1992 Olympic Games.

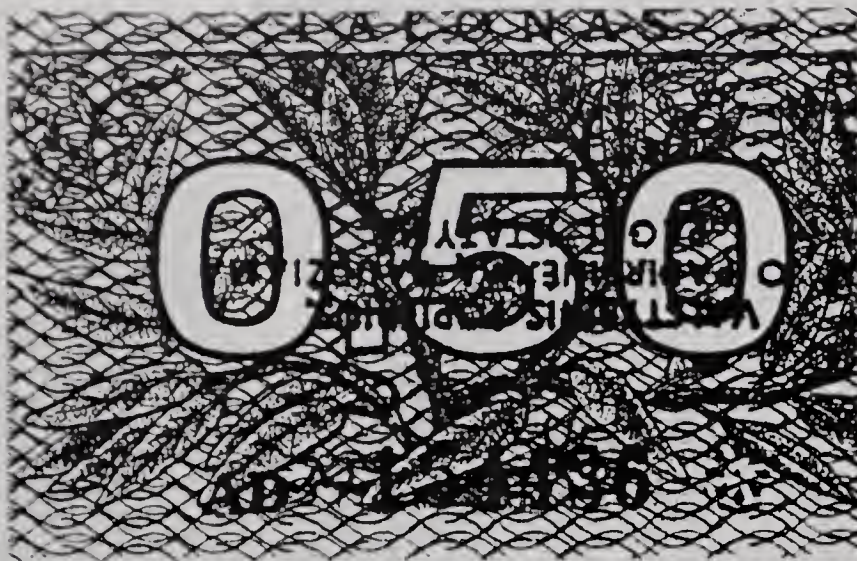
After an absence of 64 years, Lithuania reappeared on the Olympic arena in the 1992 Winter Olympic Games in Albertville. The following Barcelona'92, Lillehammer'94, Atlanta'96 and Nagano'98 Olympic Games were no less memorable.

The Summer Games in Barcelona will be inscribed in the Olympic Annals of Lithuania for ages. For the first time ever (and the only so far) the Lithuanian National Anthem was performed to honour an Olympic champion Romas Ubartas who threw the discus 65.12 m and made the long-cherished dream of an Olympic gold for independent Lithuania come true. Equally impressive were the bronze medals won by the men's basketball team.

(Continued next page....)

LETTERS

Enclosed is a copy of a note I picked up at the Long Beach show this past week. It depicts a 1991 .50 talonas note with the anti-forgery warning printed upside down! I have not seen this variety before. Sincerely, John W. Maly, Colorado Springs, CO.



EDITOR'S COMMENTS: This version is listed as a "contemporary fake" by the Standard Catalog of World Paper Money. (Pick-KM-31x2.). Remember that the .50 fractional note came with and without the clause. There is a genuine error on the counterfeiting clause that begins "VALSTYBINIS" instead of the normal "VERTYBINIS." Apparently a non-clause version with just the serial number was purposely overprinted with the error "VALSTYBINIS" version upside down to create another "variety." These fractional denominations were recycled into toilet paper in Lithuania. Some entrepreneur apparently decided to increase their value with this upsidedown overprint.

NOTE: REMINDER, MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE LNA.



Dealer in
Quality Rare Coins



Karl Stephens, Inc.

Karl Stephens
President

Post Office Box 458
Temple City, Ca. 91780

ANA 57209
818-445-8154

COMING NEXT ISSUE: ARTICLE BY
EUGENIJUS IVANAUSKAS "EMERGENCY
COINAGE OF CURLAND AND
LIVONIA 1578-1579."

OLYMPIC COIN

(Continued from page 9...)

The unique Lithuanian basketball traditions were reaffirmed in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games where the Lithuanian men's team won bronze medals for the second time.

Thus, with 1 gold and 23 bronze medals won by the Lithuanian athletes in Barcelona and Atlanta, the Olympic arsenal of Lithuania now comprises 26 gold, 19 silver and 39 bronze medals earned by 64 athletes. In Barcelona Olympic Games Lithuania was represented by 47 athletes, and by as many as 60 athletes in the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Another Meeting in the "Green Continent"

Australia, often called "the green continent", is hosting Olympic Games for the second time.

The venue of the 1956 Olympic Games was Melbourne. Competing there, as members of the USSR delegation, were 7 Lithuanian athletes who returned home with 4 silver and 1 bronze medals. Antanas Mikėnas became a vice-champion of the Games in race walking, Algirdas Lauritėnas, Kazimieras Petkevičius and Stanislovas Stonkus won Olympic silver as members of men's basketball team and Romualdas Murauskas was awarded a bronze medal in boxing.

The gap of 44 years separates not only the two Olympic Games in Australia, but also the two different epochs in Olympic sports.

As many as 10 200 athletes from 199 countries will come to the Games of the XXVII Olympiad and about 3.5 billion people all over the world will be able to watch the Games on TV.

THE KNIGHT. Volume 23 No. 1. Issue #122. September-October 2000. The official publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association. Al Radžius, Baltimore, MD, DIRECTOR. Frank Passic, Albion, Michigan, EDITOR.

Subscription/membership to Volume 23: A donation of \$15 or more (5 issues). Write: LNA, P.O. Box 22696, Baltimore, MD 21203.

EDITOR'S ADDRESS: Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224. E-Mail: Albionfp@hotmail.com

FOR BACK ISSUES: Sarunas Mingela, 46707 Stratford Ct., Northville, MI 48167. The LNA is a member C-117903 of the American Numismatic Association.